

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T STATE 203278

NODIS
-STADIS, CHEROKEE, FOR AMB. FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: VASEV CALL AND PRISONER EXCHANGES

REF: MOSCOW 18832

1. VASEV'S CALL ON ME WAS TO CONVEY AN ORAL MESSAGE HE HAD GIVEN DAVID AARON THAT DAY REGARDING SOME PROPOSALS THAT AARON HAD CONVEYED TO VASEV RE POSSIBLE EXCHANGES. THIS APPROACH TO VASEV WAS CARRIED OUT BY AARON ON THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY WHO WANTED ALL DISCUSSION OF THIS TO BE CLOSELY HELD. HE PERSONALLY APPROVED OF AARON AS THE LOWER LEVEL CHANNEL FOR THE PRESENT EXPLORATORY PERIOD WITHOUT FORECLOSING STATE DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT AT ANY STAGE. THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THIS CHANNEL HAS BEEN HELD WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO MYSELF AND CY AND A VERY FEW OTHERS. THE SECRETARY HAS NOW ASKED THAT YOU BE PROVIDED
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THE TEXT OF THE NOTES THAT VASEV SPOKE FROM. THEY FOLLOW IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

A. THE SOVIET SIDE HAS EXAMINED THE PROPOSALS OF THE AMERICAN SIDE OF JULY 28 REGARDING THE CASE OF ENGER AND

CHERNYAYEV AND FOUND THEM COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.

B. AS WE HAVE EXPLAINED ALREADY TO THE AMERICAN SIDE THE MATTER RAISED BY IT CONCERNING AN EXCHANGE OR EXPULSION FROM THE USSR OF SOVIET CITIZENS SENTENCED BY COURTS IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH SOVIET LAW AND THEREFORE IS UNREALISTIC. WE CONSIDER THAT THIS PROPOSAL ONLY COMPLICATES THE MATTER AND LEADS AWAY FROM THE SOLUTION OF THE CASE OF FREEING THE SOVIET DIPLOMATS MENTIONED ABOVE.

C. THE INTENTION OF THE COMPETENT SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET PROCEDURE TO INITIATE AN EARLY RELEASE FROM DETENTION OF VINS AND HIS SON IS PROMPTED BY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. NATURALLY WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT OBJECTIVELY THIS WOULD ALSO BE A GOODWILL GESTURE SINCE THE USA IS INTERESTED IN SUCH A RELEASE. OUR JUDGMENT ABOUT THIS IS BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PERSONAL PASTOR TO THE PRESIDENT, REV. TRENTON, WHO RECENTLY VISITED THE SOVIET UNION. AFTER VINS IS RELEASED FROM DETENTION HE AND HIS FAMILY WOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION AND GO TO THE USA.

D. ON OUR PART WE WERE JUSTIFIED IN EXPECTING THAT A CORRESPONDING ATTITUDE WOULD BE TAKEN IN THE UNITED STATES WITH REGARD TO THE CLOSING OF THE CASE OF CHERNYAYEV AND ENGER. THUS WE WOULD HAVE BEEN SPEAKING
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NOT ABOUT A JUDICIAL EXCHANGE BUT ABOUT PARALLEL, IF ONE COULD SAY SO, ACTIONS WHICH THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN SIDES WOULD TAKE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR JUDICIAL PROCEDURES, BEING GUIDED BY HUMANITARIAN FEELINGS AND A DESIRE TO BRING INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF OUR RELATIONS AN ELEMENT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL.

E. AS FAR AS MR. CRAWFORD IS CONCERNED WE HAVE ALL THE NECESSARY EVIDENCE OF HIS GUILT. THE AMERICAN SIDE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT IF THE MATTER OF ENGER AND CHERNYAYEV IS NOT SETTLED THEN MR. CRAWFORD WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL WITH ALL JUSTIFICATION.

F. THE SOVIET SIDE STILL CONSIDERS THAT OUR PROPOSALS OF JULY 25 ARE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES AND COULD FACILITATE THE SPEEDIEST SETTLEMENT OF THIS MATTER.

G. IN THIS CONNECTION WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING: THE AMERICAN SIDE DROPS THE CASE AGAINST ENGER AND CHERNYAYEV AND ALLOWS THEM TO LEAVE FOR THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE SOVIET SIDE PARALLEL TO THIS UNDERTAKES AN APPROPRIATE JUDICIAL PROCEDURE IN CONNECTION WITH LESSENING THE

SENTENCE OF FILATOV, FREEING CRAWFORD FROM THE CRIMINAL
RESPONSIBILITY AND RELEASING EARLIER VINS AND HIS SON
WITH SUBSEQUENT ALLOWING THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

REQUIRED PROCEDURE TO LEAVE THE USSR IF THEY AGREE TO
THIS THEMSELVES AND THE AMERICAN SIDE IS READY TO ACCEPT
THEM.

H. IT IS NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN THAT THE
AMERICAN PROPOSAL OF JULY 28 IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE
TO US BECAUSE IN CARRYING OUT OUR OWN POLICY, WE WILL
HENCEFORTH PUNISH THOSE WHO VIOLATE SOVIET LAWS. END
TEXT. VANCE

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